

January 21, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) released the statement below to continue the call for help following the tragic earthquake in Haiti on Tuesday, January 12th

, 2010, leading to devastating destruction and many thousands of casualties. The American people have generously donated time, supplies and financial resources over the past week but relief efforts have been hampered by damaged infrastructure and limited resources in Haiti so support is still needed.

"As we have seen, the people of Haiti have been permanently impacted by the major earthquake that hit the island on January 12th. Furious rescue efforts are occurring across the country and specialized teams of search and rescue volunteers have been dispatched from across the country in a continued attempt to locate survivors. No time can be wasted in getting aid, supplies and rescuers to the people of Haiti as the lives of even those rescued from the rubble depends on it. Any donation or contribution, whether big or small, is imperative to this rescue effort and I would encourage those who are able to assist our fellow man in their time of massive crisis to do so. I want to offer the assistance of my office to my constituents who have any questions or concerns relating to this tragedy and will provide the information necessary to keep concerned constituents informed and able to help."

A top priority is accounting for the thousands of American citizens who are currently in Haiti. **Families of Americans living in Haiti who are trying to find the status of their loved ones are encouraged to contact the State Department at 1-888-407-4747.**

According to the U.S. State Department and President Obama, monetary donations are the most efficient and effective way to help the relief effort in Haiti right now. They allow humanitarian organizations to purchase the exact type and quantity of items needed by those affected by the crisis. You can immediately donate to the Red Cross to assist the relief effort by making an instant donation of \$10, that will be charged to your cell phone bill, by texting "HAITI" to "90999" or you can log on to the Red Cross web site at <http://www.redcross.org>.

You can also find more ways to help through the through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which has a list of Non-Governmental Organizations

(NGOs) that are active in the relief effort, as well as instructions on how to help: <http://www.usaid.gov>

Those looking to donate time, supplies or funds may also contact the Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at 703-276-1914, or visit them online at <http://www.cidi.org/incident/haiti-10a/>

Any local residents who wish to offer additional assistance or need more information should call either Arcuri's Utica office at 315-793-8146 or his Washington DC office at 202-225-3665.

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